

City of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER SCOTT PETERS
DISTRICT ONE

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 17, 2003

TO: Gary Gallegos, Executive Director, SANDAG

FROM: Councilmember Scott Peters, City of San Diego

SUBJECT: SANDAG North / South Corridor Study

I and members of the communities I represent were alarmed to learn that the San Diego Association of Governments is pursuing a study of North / South Corridors that includes the connection of Camino Ruiz across the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. I request that SANDAG stop all evaluation of this corridor.

The bridge across the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve was removed from the Mira Mesa and Rancho Penasquitos Community Plans in 1992. The issue was again discussed in 1999 by the City of San Diego's Land Use and Housing Committee. The Committee voted unanimously again to reject this roadway segment and asked that transportation planners no longer bring it back for consideration.

Because of the removal of this link from the community plans over a decade ago, people have purchased homes, and communities have planned their neighborhoods, schools and parks with the understanding that this connection would not be made. In Mira Mesa, construction has started on a park at the Northern terminus of Camino Ruiz which is expected to be completed within a year. Any bridge plan would require demolition of this vital community resource which would be a waste of resources and a backward movement for this community. Camino Ruiz has also been renamed in the North to Camino Del Sur, in recognition of the fact that the connection will not be made.

Finally, I am concerned that if people perceive that these are the kind of transportation improvements that would be funded by Transnet, they will vote against the extension. I suggest that SANDAG focus its energy on finding ways to better serve these communities with public transportation, work with local governments to build roads that are currently on the books, and devise ways to use technology to better use the traffic circulation infrastructure that currently exists.

I would be happy to provide additional feedback to your committee on this subject.

CC: Mayor Dick Murphy, Councilman Jim Madaffer